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REMARKS

Claims 1-83 are pending. Claims 65-83 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-64 were rejected.

With this amendment, claims 2-4, 9-13, 15-30, and 36 are amended to correct typographical errors and incorrect dependencies thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 91-3, 15-23, 27-31, and 40-42 under 112 second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claim 1

Independent claim 1 was rejected by the Examiner under 103(a) over Ashurst. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is not disclosed or suggested by Ashurst. Specifically, claim 1 expressly recites, among other features, that the method is performed in the absence of the application of ultraviolet light. As described in the specification of this patent application: *"Moreover, the cleaning process does not require ultra-violet light that is often used in cleaning the surfaces of microstructures disclosed in prior art"* (paragraph [0033]). In contrast, the Ashurst reference uses ozone in Ultraviolet light (UVO), as described in the second paragraph of the experimental section (2. Experimental). Because Ashurst fails in teaching or suggesting each and every features of claim 1, claim 1, as well as claims 2-30 that depend from claim 1, is patentable over Ashurst. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of claim 31

Independent claim 31 was rejected by the Examiner under 103(a) over Ashurst in view of Chinn or Leung et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 31 expressly recites, among other features, a step of introducing the gaseous modification agent into the chamber such that the gaseous modification agent is delivered through a micro-opening of the assembly to the surface of the microelectromechanical device for modifying the surfaces of the microelectromechanical device, wherein the micro-opening has a characteristic dimension around 10 micrometers or less. This feature is nowhere disclosed or

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suggested by Ashurst, Chinn, or Leung. As indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Ashurst fails to teach the MEMS device being part of an assembly (e.g. a partially packaged device) and then into the chamber for cleaning. Though Chinn depicts a chamber having a gas delivery system (316) and Leung depicts a chamber (60) having inlet ports (62), none of Chinn and Leung discloses or suggests the micro-opening of the assembly. Moreover, none of Chinn and Leung discloses or suggests the micro-opening has a characteristic dimension of 10 microns or less.

Because Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 31, either individually or in combination, claim 31, as well as claims 32-44 that depend from claim 31, is patentable over Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

#### Rejection of claim 45

Independent claim 45 was rejected by the Examiner under 103(a) over Ashurst in view of Chinn or Leung et al. With this amendment, claim 45 is not disclosed or suggested by Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung, either individually or in combination.

Claim 45 expressly recites, among others, a feature that the method is performed in the absence of application of ultraviolet light. As discussed above with reference to claim 1, Ashurst does not disclose or suggest this feature. None of Chinn and Leung remedies such deficiency in Ashurst.

Because Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 45 either individually or in combination, claim 45, as well as claims 46-55 that depend from claim 45, is patentable over Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

#### Rejection of claim 56

Independent claim 56 was rejected by the Examiner under 103(a) over Ashurst in view of Chinn or Leung et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 56 expressly recites, among other features, a step of introducing a gaseous

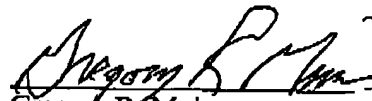
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modification agent into the chamber such that the agent is delivered through an opening of the assembly to the surface of the microelectromechanical device, further comprising: a) introducing a first component of the agent into the chamber at a first pressure; and b) introducing a second component of the agent into the chamber at a second pressure that is higher than the first pressure. This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested by Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung, either individually or in combination.

Because Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 56 either individually or in combination, claim 56, as well as claims 57-64 that depend from claim 56, is patentable over Ashurst, Chinn, and Leung. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. In the event any fees are required in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 501516.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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